

guide means guiding said continuous permanent media belt out of said tank at a side opposite said rear wall, beneath said tank bottom, up the outside of said rear wall and back into said tank;

a pair of continuous chain conveyor loops disposed within said tank, each of said chain conveyor loops including a segment extending over a respective side edge of said filter media belt along said bottom of said tank to said exit;

guide means directing said chain conveyor loops from said exit point back over the upper region of said tank to said rear wall and back into said tank, converging with said permanent filter media belt at said rear wall, said permanent media belt and said chain conveyor loops thereby taking divergent routes after exiting said tank;

index drive means for periodically advancing said chain conveyor loops incrementally from said rear wall;

said chain conveyor loops drivingly engaging segments of said permanent filter media belt [segments] by frictional [means] contact to advance said segments with said chain conveyor segments during indexing thereof.

[Please rewrite claim 3 as follows:]

3. (Amended) [The] A filter apparatus for filtering solids from a liquid comprising:

a tank adapted, constructed and arranged to receive liquid to be filtered, said tank including a bottom and a rear endwall;

a perforate section formed in said tank bottom, a collection chamber disposed beneath said perforate layer section, and means for drawing liquid through said perforate section into said collection chamber;

a continuous loop of a porous permanent filter media belt, including a segment extending down said rear wall and passing along said tank bottom over said perforate section to an exit point at the end of said tank opposite said rear wall;

guide means guiding said continuous permanent media belt out of said tank at a side opposite said rear wall, beneath said tank bottom, up the outside of said rear wall and back into said tank;

a pair of continuous chain conveyor loops disposed within said tank, each of said chain conveyor loops including a segment extending over a respective side edge of said filter media belt along said bottom of said tank to said exit;

guide means directing said chain conveyor loops from said exit point back over the upper region of said tank to said rear wall and back into said tank, converging with said permanent filter media belt at said rear wall, said permanent media belt and said chain conveyor loops thereby taking divergent routes after exiting said tank;

index drive means for periodically advancing said chain conveyor loops incrementally from said rear wall;

said chain conveyor loops drivingly engaging segments of said permanent filter media belt segments by frictional means contact to advance said segments with said chain conveyor segments during indexing thereof; [according to claim 1 further including]

a disposable porous media belt entering between said chain conveyor loops and said permanent filter media belt as said chain conveyor loops and permanent filter media belt converge together

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at said rear wall, said disposable media belt extending along said tank bottom and out said exit end of said tank, said chain conveyor loop segment lying atop side edges of said disposable media belt to indirectly frictionally engage said side edges of said permanent filter media belt segments to cause incremental advance of each.

[Please rewrite claim 6 as follow:]

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6. (Amended) The filter apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said [scrape] scraper edge slants down and [forwardly] away from the lower surface of said permanent filter media belt.

[Please rewrite claim 7 as follows:]

7. (Amended) The filter apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said [scrape] scraper edge is affixed to said collection trough.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 remain in the application.

Claims 1 and 6 have been rewritten to correct the indefinitenesses noted by the Examiner in rejecting these claims under 35 USC 112.

Other improvements in these claims and claim 7 have also been made.

Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitation of parent claim 1 to overcome the objection thereto.

Claim 1 stands as rejected under 35 USC 103 over the combination of Bratten and Bahrs, the Examiner taking the position it would be obvious to add a second belt to Bratten in view of Bahrs.